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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

21 Application number: 82107799.7

51 Int. Cl.³: G 06 F 15/20

22 Date of filing: 25.08.82

30 Priority: 24.09.81 US 305252

40 Date of publication of application:
06.04.83 Bulletin 83/14

84 Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB IT

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54 Method and apparatus for merge processing in a text processing system.

57 An improved method and apparatus in an interactive text processing system for creating documents by selectively merging text data from two or more text records by signalling the location in a document at which the insert of text data is to be added, displaying a Merge Tasks Menu which provides an option for executing a merge operation in response to either Switch Code or Named Variable control codes, specifying the identification and location of the text data comprising the Shell Document and the Fill-In Document, and executing the Merge operation based on the specified data and Merge control mode.

EP 0 075 732 A2

DSX001		MERGE TASKS		[Key]	
ID	ITEM				
a	Merge with Named Variables				
b	Merge with Switch Codes				
c	Go to Task Selection				

When finished with this menu, press ENTER.
Type ID letter to choose ITEM; press ENTER:

FIG. 3

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MERGE PROCESSING
IN A TEXT PROCESSING SYSTEM

Description

Technical Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a text processing system and more particularly to means and methods for enabling an operator to merge various keyed entries of text data to create a document on a text processing system.

Description of the Background Art

It is known in the prior art to merge keyed text data to produce a document utilizing stop codes. In a typical application, known as repetitive letters, the operator creates multiple versions of the same document, differing only in variable replacement text included in that document. The repetitive letter is created by keying and storing the master repetitive letter or shell document. The shell document is created in a similar manner to any other letter except that instead of typing the information that will change from letter to letter (for example, the name, address, and salutation), a Switch Code is typed at each point in the shell document where the information that changes will appear. The parts of the letter that change are called variable information or variables, and the Switch Codes enable the operator to locate the places in the letter where the variables are typed.

Pagination functions typically process variable length input lines of text into uniform pages of equal length lines, keep related text on a single page, allow text lines from other documents to be inserted, and make hyphenation decisions or assist an operator of the text processing system in making hyphenation decisions when a word crosses a line ending boundary. The pagination functions are based on the concept

of paginating a text document entered by an operator to produce an attractive appearing letter, for example, with equal length lines, etc. An extension of pagination, offered by some text processing systems, allows variable data from a data processing-like file to be merged with a text document to generate a composite document, for example, personalized letters. This capability is generally referred to as "merge file/ text" or "auto letters". In this system, the variable data is identified by a "set symbol".

There has developed in the text processing market a requirement for systems providing enhanced operator productivity without requiring programming skills on the part of the text processing system operator.

Summary of the Invention

In accordance with the present invention, a control system apparatus and method for operating a text processing system is provided which includes an operator interface, usable by an operator with no programming skills, for the creation of documents by selectively merging text data from two or more text records by signalling the location in a document at which an insert of text data is to be added, displaying a first menu to the operator which provides an option to the operator for choosing a merge operation in response to either a first or a second control code. Either a second or a third menu is displayed to the operator in response to the selection of a merge operation in response to either a first or a second control code, and the selected menu enables specifying the identification and location of the document and the text data to be inserted. The data to be inserted is fetched and merged into the document at the signalled location to produce a revised document.

In a specific embodiment, the operator has the option of choosing a merge operation in response to Switch Codes or a merge operation in response to Named Variables.

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of the system embodying the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of the processor shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 illustrates the Merge Tasks Menu as it would appear on the display device of FIG. 1 in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 4 illustrates the Merge with Named Variables Setup Menu as it would appear on the display device of FIG. 1 in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 5 illustrates the Merge with Switch Codes Setup Menu as it would appear on the display device of FIG. 1 in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a hierarchy diagram of the merge subsystem control routines in accordance with the present invention.

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

Referring now to FIG. 1, a portion of the text processing system is shown, including a processor 10 to which is connected a bus 12 leading from a keyboard 14. Character data generated by manual actuation of keyboard 14 applies character-related signals to processor 10 which provides on an output memory bus 16 a data stream in which the characters selected by actuation of keyboard 14 appear suitably encoded.

Keyboard 14 comprises a normal set of graphic symbol keys such as letters, numbers, punctuation marks, and special character keys, plus text format or control keys like carriage return, indent, etc. In addition, the keyboard includes a second set of control keys for issuing special control commands to the system. The control keys include

cursor movement keys, keys for setting the keyboard into a number of different modes, etc.

Memory bus 16 extends to a memory unit 20, to a display unit 22, to a diskette unit 24 and to a printer 25.

Memory 20 includes text storage buffers 26, 26' which serve to store the coded data stream comprising the text input initially entered through the keyboard 14. Included in the text storage buffers 26, 26' are storage sections for the identity of the active document format which contains the active document keyboard character set (KB/CS) namely, in portions 28, 28'.

Text storage buffer control blocks 30, 30' are linked to buffers 26, 26' and include a cursor control section 32, 32'. The text storage buffers 26, 26' are linked to the data on the diskette 24 by storage access control blocks (SACB) (not shown), one of which is included for each text storage buffer.

A text storage buffer manager 34 is linked by channels 36, 36' to the control blocks 30, 30' by channels 38, 38' to the buffers 26, 26' and by channels 40 and 42 to a merge controller 44.

Merge controller 44 provides the control routines necessary to execute a merge operation in conjunction with text data stored in the Output TSB 26, the Fill-In TSB 26' and the record buffer 27 as will be described in greater detail later in this specification.

A keystroke control routine block 46 is provided to select the appropriate routine for the entered keystroke and is connected to Merge controller 44 by channel 47. The control blocks 30, 30' are connected to merge controller 44 by channels 48, 48'. Buffer 26 is coupled by channel 50 to a display access method block 52 which is coupled by way of chan-

nel 54 to a display refresh buffer 56. A display control block 58 is coupled by channel 60 to the display access method block 52. Get control block 57 functions to fetch data which is stored in record buffer 27.

In accordance with the present invention, a channel 62 is connected from the active document format storage 28 of buffer 26 to the merge controller 44. Further, an input keyboard character set (KB/CS) block 64 stores the identity of any desired input keyboard character set of keyboard 14 and is connected by way of channel 66 to the merge controller 44.

The display access method block has corresponding access method blocks for the diskette 24 and the printer 25. Each of the blocks serves as an interface to the corresponding unit.

The display refresh buffer 56 contains the actual text which is shown on display 22 while the buffer 26 contains all of the display text plus control data.

Menu manager 29 selects the appropriate menu to be displayed on display 22 and stores the menu image in menu buffer 31. At the appropriate time, the menu image is transferred by channel 50 to the display access method block 52 for routing to the display refresh buffer 56.

In operation of the system of FIG. 1, the encoded data stream on memory bus 16 is stored in the text storage buffer 26. In the process of correction and editing the contents of the text storage buffer 26, selected portions or lines of a page are presented on display unit 22. Stored in active document format section 28 is the code designating the keyboard character set that was employed in the production of the coded data stream appearing on memory bus 16 leading from processor 10 and applied from text storage buffer 26 to display unit 22 for edit.

If it is necessary, for example, to insert a graphic item into the text displayed on unit 22, then a cursor, conventionally available on such display systems, is placed below the character on display 22 at the location immediately preceding which an insert is to be made. The input keyboard character set identification of which the graphic item to be inserted forms a part, is applied by way of channel 66 to the merge controller 44.

Referring to FIG. 2, the processor 10 is further detailed to show typical logic hardware elements as found in such processors. The processor may be a commercially available unit, such as from Intel Corporation and identified by the number 8086, or any of the recognized functionally equivalent, currently available microprocessors. Typically, the processor includes a control logic unit 70 which responds to interrupts on a device bus 71 from the keyboard 14. The control logic unit 70 is also connected to a data and address bus 82 interconnected to various other logic units of the processor 10.

In response to a fetch instruction from the random access memory 20, the control logic unit 70 generates control signals to other logic elements of the processor. These control signals are interconnected to the various elements by means of a control line 72 which is illustrated directly connected to an arithmetic logic unit 73 and identified as a "control" line 72 to other elements of the processor. Sequence operation of a control unit 70 with other logic elements of the processor 10 is achieved by means of clock pulses input to the processor from an external clock source on a clock line 74. Line 74 is also shown interconnected to other logic elements of the processor 10 detailed in FIG. 2.

Data and instructions to be processed in the processor 10 are input through a bus control logic unit 76. Data to be processed may also come from program input/output control logic unit 77. The bus control logic 76 connects storage elements of the random access memory 20 through bus 16 and receives

instructions for processing data received from the input/output control 77 or received from the random access memory 20. Thus, the input/output control 77 receives data from the keyboard 14 or the random access memory 20 while the bus control logic 76 receives instructions and/or data from the same memory. Note the different storage sections of the random access memory 20 identifiable for instruction storage and data storage.

Device control information from the processor 10 is output through program input/output controller 77 over a data bus 80. Input data on the data bus 80 from the keyboard 14 is processed internally through the processor by instructions on the bus 82 to temporary scratch registers 83. The arithmetic logic unit 73, in response to a control signal on line 72 and in accordance with instructions received on an input/output data bus 80 performs computations and the results can be stored in the temporary scratch registers 83. Various other transfers of data between the arithmetic logic unit 73 and other logic elements of the processor are, of course, possible. Such additional transfers may be to a status register 85, data pointer register 86 or a stack pointer register 87. A program counter 88 is also connected through the data stream bus 82 to various other logic elements in the processor 10.

A particular operating sequence for the processor 10 is determined by instructions and data on the memory bus 16 and input data on the bi-directional bus 80. As an example, in response to received instructions, the processor 10 transfers data stored in the scratch registers 83 to one of the registers 85, 86 or 87. Such operations of processors as detailed in FIG. 2 are considered to be well known and understood by one of ordinary skill in the data processing field. A detailed description of each operation of the processor in FIG. 2 is not deemed necessary for a full understanding of the present invention as claimed.

Prior to discussing the flow of the merge control routine and its combination with the text processing system of FIG. 1, an overview of the control system is in order. The specific problem addressed is how to provide an operator interface on a display device that permits merging of documents by either switch codes or named variables in a manner that promotes ease of learning by operators with no programming skills, ease of use and compatibility with existing text processing equipment.

The operator creates documents by combining pre-stored text data, paragraphs, or "named variables", which are known as a Shell Document, with pre-sorted personalization information known as a Fill-In Document. The Fill-In Document contains one or more Replacement Lists.

The operator has the choice of executing Merge with Switch Codes, as has been done with existing text processing equipment including Magnetic Card equipment, or with Named Variables. The Named Variable allows the operator to mark a position in a document at which "variable" text data is expected to be inserted at a later time. The names of variables (Named Variables) are designated by the operator and may subsequently be used by both the operator and the system for reference. The operator may assign names which relate to the textual information to be inserted (first name or inside address, for example) at the designated position in the document.

To execute a Merge operation each Replacement List in the Fill-in Document is merged with the Shell Document. All of the filled-in copies can be stored in a single operator specified output document and optionally printed if desired. Alternatively, the document can be designated to be only printed.

Preparatory to executing a merge operation, there are two documents which must be input by the operator to the Merge

application. These documents are created in Create/Revise mode. The two documents are a Shell document and a Fill-In document.

The shell document is a document containing either variables or switch codes at locations corresponding to the places where variable text is to be inserted. Multiple shells can be created within a single document. Each unique shell is identified by a Begin Using Document Format at the top of the first page of the shell.

The Fill-In Document contains the Replacement List(s). Replacement Lists can be created by keying each replacement value followed by a switch code if Merge with Switch Codes is to be processed. If the switch code approach is used, no separators are keyed between replacement lists (i.e., there is one list and each replacement value is ended with a switch code). If merge is to be processed with named variables, multiple Replacement Lists are separated within a single document by Page End (PE) codes. If the Named Variable approach is used, replacement values must be entered following the appropriate named variable.

Once the Shell Document and the Fill-In Document have been created, the operator selects Merge Tasks from the Task Selection Menu and the Merge Tasks Menu will be displayed. An illustration of the Merge Tasks Menu as it would appear on the display device is shown in FIG. 3.

A prompt line of the display instructs the operator to type the ID letter to choose an ITEM. The operator makes this selection by typing the appropriate letter in place of the underlined small square at the end of the prompt line of the display and pressing the ENTER key on keyboard 14. The underline represents the position of the cursor and the small square represents the location at which the first keyed character is displayed. For example, to select a Merge with Named Variables, the operator types a "a" in the designated position and presses the ENTER key.

In response to the above selection, the Merge with Named Variables Setup Menu is displayed on the display device, and an illustration of this menu is shown in FIG. 4. This menu instructs the operator to make selections concerning the name and location of the Shell Document, the name, location and page numbers to be used for the Fill-In Document and the name and location to be stored for the Merged Document. These selections are made by keying the appropriate ID letter followed by a space and the designated name.

Should the selection be made to Merge with Switch Codes, the Merge with Switch Codes Setup Menu would be displayed and an illustration of this menu is included in FIG. 5. This menu instructs the operator to make choices for the name and location of the Shell Document and the Fill-In Document and the name and location to be stored for the Merged Document. After all the selections are made, the operator presses the ENTER key to start the Merge process.

A Hierarchy Diagram of the Merge Subsystem is shown in FIG. 6 which shows the relationship between the various routines used to execute the Merge process called by the application supervisor 90 under the control of the merge supervisor 91.

These routines include the Merge Start/End routines (steps 92, 93) which function to display the Merge Task Selection Menu (step 95) and to set up various components and initiate the Merge process (step 96). The Merge Controller 94 controls the Merge process and the Merge Shell Build 97 deals with the actual process for building and outputting the Shell Document (step 98).

The Shell Document is stored on the designated diskette and a copy of the Shell Document is copied into the Output TSB 26. The Fill-In Document is opened (step 99) and the first page is placed in the Fill-In TSB 26'. Each page includes all the variable information for one document. The pagination routine is then invoked in normal fashion. During this routine, the

text in the Output TSB 26 is scanned to detect any control codes. Any control codes such as an INCLUDE instruction, for example, are resolved by the pagination routine by instructing the GET Control Block to fetch any designated data for inclusion into the document included in Output TSB or the part of the document stored in Fill-In TSB. The designated data is fetched (steps 103, 104, 109) one record at a time and the fetched data is stored in record buffer 27 and transferred into the Output TSB as needed. The pagination routine then proceeds to resolve the control codes (step 105) as encountered. These control codes may be such codes as the previously mentioned INCLUDE instructions (step 106) or either Switch Codes or Named Variables utilized in the Merge process. In the case of Switch Codes or Named Variables (step 107), the data in the Fill-In TSB is scanned and transferred into the designated insert location (step 108) within the text stored in the Output TSB. The pagination routine continues to merge the designated text data into the Output TSB until a page is completed. At a Page End the TSB Manager 34 stores the completed page on the designated diskette. In addition, if printing is designated by the operator, the page is also sent to the printer 25 (steps 101, 102). The Merge process continues in this manner until all of the pages in the document have been processed (steps 110, 111) Error Handler steps 112 to 115 are also available.

Suitable program routines in program design language (PDL) for implementing the described Merge control system are shown in the following tables:

DESCRIPTIVE-NAME = MERGE START/END

FUNCTION = The Merge Start/End component (MSE-----)
contains the routines necessary to load and
delete the routines used by the Merge load.
In addition, it contains a routine that
will display the Merge Task Selection menu
and initiate the Merge process.

TABLE 1

MERGE INITIALIZE

```
BEGIN (MSEINIT)
  PUT UP THE 'LOADING TASK' MODE MSG
  LOAD ROUTINES FOR MERGE APPLICATION
  IF LOAD RETURN CODE IS NOT FATAL
    ALLOCATE AND INITIALIZE DATA AREAS
    INITIALIZE POINTER TO DATA AREAS
    INITIALIZE THE SACB FIELDS IN MERGE DATA AREAS
    INITIALIZE DISPLAY STATUS LINE
  ELSE
    PUT UP ERROR MESSAGE
  ENDIF
  RESTORE THE LOADSET RETURN CODE
  RETURN TO CALLER
END (MSEINIT)
```

TABLE 2

MERGE TERMINATION

```
BEGIN (MSETERM)
  DELETE THE MERGE APPLICATION
  FREE THE MERGE DATA AREAS
  RETURN TO CALLER
END (MSETERM)
```

TABLE 3

MERGE SUPERVISOR

```
BEGIN (MSESUPER)
  FETCH THE KEYBOARD ARRANGEMENT
  PLACE ARRANGEMENT IN THE MERGE DATA AREA
  ALLOCATE THE MERGE WORKSPACE
  BUILD THE MERGE POOL
```

```
ALLOCATE THE SPACE FOR THE TWO TSBS, THE DOCUMENT
  FORMAT BUFFER, THE VARIABLE FILL-IN PAGE NAME
  LIST BUFFER, THE MERGE CONTROL BLOCK, AND THE
  GET PAGE(S) CONTROL BLOCK
CALCULATE AND SAVE THE ADDRESSES OF THE ABOVE
  DATA AREAS
UNTIL THE OPERATOR CHOOSES THE "RETURN TO TASK
  SELECTION" OPTION OR CANCELS THE MENU DO
  IF THE MENU BUFFER DOES NOT EXIST THEN
    ALLOCATE THE MENU BUFFER
    ALLOCATE THE MENU DESCRIPTORS
  ENDIF
  INITIALIZE THE MENU DESCRIPTORS FOR THE MERGE
    TASK SELECTION MENU
  DISPLAY THE MERGE TASK SELECTION MENU
  IF OPERATOR DID NOT CANCEL THEN
    IF THE OPERATOR CHOSE ONE OF THE MERGE DIREC-
      TIVE OPTIONS THEN
        IF SWITCH CODE MERGE WAS CHOSEN THEN
          TURN ON THE APPROPRIATE FLAG
        ENDIF
        CALL THE MERGE PROCESS CONTROLLER
        IF MERGE COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY THEN
          DISPLAY "MERGE COMPLETE"
        ELSE
          IF NO VARIABLES OR SWITCH CODES WERE
            FOUND THEN
              ENDIF
            ENDIF
          ENDIF
        ENDIF
      ENDIF
    ENDIF
  ENDDO
  IF THE MENU BUFFER EXISTS THEN
    FREE THE MENU BUFFER AND THE MENU DESCRIPTORS
  ENDIF
```

```
FREE THE REMAINING DATA AREAS
FREE THE MERGE POOL
FREE THE MERGE WORKSPACE
RETURN TO CALLER
END MSESUPER
```

DESCRIPTIVE-NAME = MERGE CONTROLLER

FUNCTION = The Merge Controller component (MCN-----) contains the routines which control the Merge process. This component controls Repetitive Letters and Document Assembly functions for both named VARIABLES and switch code Merge. This component detects all setup errors and redisplay the appropriate setup menu so the operator may correct the error.

TABLE 4
MERGE CONTROLLER

```
BEGIN MCNCNTRLR
  INITIALIZE THE SACBS IN THE MAVT
  INVOKE MCNSMENU - DISPLAY AND PROCESS THE
    APPROPRIATE SETUP MENU
  IF MEDIA OUTPUT THEN
    SET UP FOR OUTPUT DOCUMENT
  ENDIF
  IF THE OPERATOR DID NOT ABORT THEN
    SET THE DEFAULT INCLUDE DISKETTE NAME FIELD
      IN THE GET CONTROL BLOCK
    DISPLAY THE MERGING MESSAGE ON THE DISPLAY
      STATUS LINES
    FREE THE MENU DESCRIPTORS AND MENU BUFFER
```



```
WHILE MERGE_NOT_FINISHED -AND- THE ABORT FLAG
  IS OFF DO
    IF NO TERMINAL ERROR OCCURRED THEN
      UNTIL A PAGE IS FOUND OR NO MORE PAGES DO
        INVOKE MSBBUMPV - READ THE NEXT VARIABLE
          LIST INTO THE TSB
      ENDIF
    IF THE MERGE_FINISHED FLAG WAS NOT SET THEN
      IF NO TERMINAL ERROR OCCURRED THEN
        INVOKE MSBBLDSH - MERGE THE DOCUMENT
      ENDIF
      IF ANY TERMINAL ERRORS OCCURRED (IN
        MSBBUMPV OR MSBBLDSH) THEN
        TURN ON THE ABORT FLAG (TO TERMINATE
          MERGE) AND CALL THE ERROR HANDLER
          SUBROUTINE
      ELSE
        POLL FOR REQUEST OR END KEYS
        IF REQUEST WAS HIT THEN
          PASS CONTROL TO THE REQUEST KEY
            PROCESSOR
          CLEAR THE SCREEN
        ENDIF
      ENDIF
    ENDIF
  ENDDO
  INVOKE MSBCOMP - BRING THE MERGE TASK TO AN
    ORDERLY HALT
  ENDIF
  IF MSBCOMP HAD A TERMINAL ERROR THEN
    CHECK FOR AND HANDLE ANY ERRORS
  ENDIF
  IF MERGE WAS ABORTED DUE TO ERRORS THEN
    IF PRINT ONLY AND NO PAGES FOUND THEN
      PUT UP NO PAGES FOUND MESSAGE
    ELSE
      DISPLAY THE 'MERGE UNSUCCESSFUL' MESSAGE
    ENDIF
```

```
ENDIF
CLEAR THE MERGING MESSAGE ON DISPLAY STATUS LINES
RETURN TO THE CALLER
END MCNCNTRLR
```

TABLE 5
SETUP MENU

```
BEGIN (MCNSETUP)
OPEN THE SHELL DOCUMENT
OPEN THE VARIABLE FILL-IN DOCUMENT
IF OUTPUT IS NOT 'PRINT ONLY' THEN
    CREATE THE OUTPUT DOCUMENT
ENDIF
UNTIL ALL OF DOCUMENT FORMAT IS READ IN DO
    READ THE NEXT (FIRST) DOCUMENT FORMAT RECORD OF
        THE SHELL DOCUMENT INTO THE DOCUMENT FORMAT
        BUFFER
    IF OUTPUT IS NOT 'PRINT ONLY' THEN
        WRITE THE DOCUMENT FORMAT RECORD TO THE
            OUTPUT DOCUMENT
        IF WE ARE WRITING OUT THE FIRST RECORD OF
            DOCUMENT FORMAT THEN
                NAME THE RECORD
            ENDIF
        ENDIF
    ENDDO
    IF OUTPUT IS NOT 'PRINT ONLY' THEN
        WRITE THE DOCUMENT FORMAT RECORD TO THE OUTPUT
            DOCUMENT
        NAME THE RECORD
    ENDIF
INITIALIZE THE TWO TSBS AND TSB CONTROL BLOCKS
HANDLE ANY READ/WRITE ERRORS
HANDLE OUTPUT DOCUMENT OPEN ERRORS
HANDLE VARIABLE DOCUMENT OPEN ERRORS
```

HANDLE ANY OPEN ERRORS
RETURN TO CALLER
END (MCNSETUP)

TABLE 6
INITIALIZE MENU

BEGIN (MCNSMENU)
UNTIL THE MERGE SETUP MENU IS PROPERLY ENTERED
-OR- THE OPERATOR CANCELLED WITHOUT CHANGES DO
IF THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE MENU WILL
BE DISPLAYED OR DID THE OPERATOR CANCEL THE
MENU WITH CHANGES MADE THEN
INITIALIZE THE NUMERIC MENU DESCRIPTORS
FIND THE DEFAULT PAPER FEED TYPE
DETERMINE WHETHER A DEFAULT DISKETTE EXISTS
ON THE SYSTEM AND INITIALIZE THE SHELL
DISKETTE MENU DESCRIPTORS
INITIALIZE THE VARIABLE FILL-IN DISKETTE MENU
DESCRIPTORS
INITIALIZE THE OUTPUT DISKETTE MENU
DESCRIPTORS
UNLOCK THE SYSTEM RESOURCES
INITIALIZE THE DOCUMENT MENU DESCRIPTORS
INITIALIZE THE PAGE NAME LIST MENU
DESCRIPTORS
ENDIF
IF SWITCH CODE MERGE WAS CHOSEN THEN
POINT TO THE SWITCH CODE MERGE MENU
DESCRIPTORS
ELSE
POINT TO THE NAMED VARIABLE MERGE MENU
DESCRIPTORS
ENDIF

```
PUT UP THE APPROPRIATE SETUP MENU
IF THE MENU WAS CANCELLED WITH EITHER CHANGES
OR NO CHANGES MADE TO THE MENU THEN
IF THE CANCEL WAS WITH NO CHANGES THEN
TURN ON THE ABORT AND CANCEL FLAGS
ENDIF
ELSE
MARK MENU ITEMS INVALID IF THE OPERATOR DID
NOT SPECIFY A SHELL DOCUMENT NAME, A SHELL
DISKETTE NAME, A VARIABLE FILL-IN DOCUMENT
NAME AND A VARIABLE FILL-IN DISKETTE NAME
IF ALL OF THE REQUIRED PARAMETERS WERE
ENTERED THEN
PROCESS THE PRINT OUTPUT DOCUMENT OPTION
PROCESS THE OUTPUT DOCUMENT NAME OPTION
IF THE OPERATOR SPECIFIED AN INVALID OUTPUT
TYPE THEN
TURN ON THE SETUP ERROR OCCURRED FLAG AND
MARK THE APPROPRIATE MENU ITEMS AS
INVALID
ENDIF
IF NO INVALID OUTPUT TYPE ERROR OCCURRED
THEN
PROCESS THE CANCEL ON ERROR OPTION
PROCESS THE VARIABLE FILL-IN PAGE NAME
LIST OPTION
INVOKE MCNSETUP - CREATE/OPEN SPECIFIED
DOCUMENTS AND INITIALIZE THE SPECIFIED
TSBS
ENDIF
ENDIF
ENDIF
ENDDO
RETURN TO CALLER
END MCNSMENU
```

DESCRIPTIVE-NAME = MERGE SHELL BUILD

FUNCTION = The Merge Shell Build component (MSB-----)
deals with the actual process of building
and outputting the shell via the Merge
Application. This component is responsible
for detecting and saving all execution
errors.

TABLE 7
BUILD SHELL

```
BEGIN (MSBBLD SH)
  IF NOT FIRST TIME THRU THEN
    CALL THE GET SHELL ROUTINE TO PUT THE OPERATOR
      SPECIFIED SHELL INTO THE APPROPRIATE OUTPUT
        DOCUMENT
  ENDIF
  PAGINATE AND RESOLVE THE INCLUDES AND VARIABLES
  RECORD THE LAST PAGE
  INDICATE END OF SHELL
  CALL PRINTER INTERFACE TO ENTER THE LAST PAGE IN
    TRAIL PRINT
  RESET END OF SHELL
  IF NO VARIABLE FOUND IN SHELL THEN
    SETUP FOR ABORT
  ENDIF
  RETURN TO THE CALLER
END MSBBLD SH
```

TABLE 8
INSERT VALUE INTO OUTPUT

```
BEGIN (MSBINVAL)
  SAVE CHARACTER SET AT END OF VALUE
  MOVE CURSOR TO START OF VALUE
  SAVE CHAR SET AT START OF VALUE
  RESOLVE ANY CHARACTER SET MISMATCHES AT START OF
    VALUE
  MOVE CURSOR TO END OF SWITCH CODE OR NAMED
    VARIABLE
  RESOLVE ANY CHARACTER SET MISMATCHES AT END OF
    VALUE
  ENDDO
  RETURN TO THE CALLER
END (MSBINVAL)
```

TABLE 9
VARIABLE SEARCH

```
BEGIN (MSBVSrch)
  INDICATE A VALUE HAS NOT BEEN FOUND
  INDICATE END OF VALUE NOT FOUND
  IF NOT SWITCH CODE MERGE THEN
    CHECK CURRENT VARIABLE FOR NAME MATCH
    IF VALUE NOT FOUND THEN
      IF NOT AT TOP OF PAGE THEN
        PUT REPLACEMENT LIST LOCATION POINTER AT
          TOP OF PAGE
      ENDIF
    UNTIL VARIABLE NAME MATCH FOUND OR END OF
      PAGE FOUND DO
      CHECK CURRENT VARIABLE FOR NAME MATCH
      IF VARIABLE NAME MATCH NOT FOUND THEN
        MOVE TO NEXT CONTROL SEQUENCE
      ENDIF
    ENDIF
  ENDIF
```

```
        ENDDO
    ENDIF
    IF VALUE FOUND THEN
        SAVE LOCATION OF FIRST CHARACTER
        FIND END OF VALUE
        SAVE LOCATION OF VALUE END
    ENDIF
ELSE
    INDICATE A VARIABLE WAS FOUND IN SHELL
    IF NOT AT END OF DOCUMENT THEN
        INDICATE VALUE FOUND
        SAVE LOCATION OF VALUE START
        MOVE TO NEXT SWITCH CODE OR END OF DOCUMENT
        SAVE LOCATION OF END OF VALUE
    ENDIF
ENDIF
RETURN TO CALLER
END MSBVSrch
```

TABLE 10
SHELL BUILD COMPLETION

```
BEGIN (MSBCOMP)
    REINITIALIZE MERGE CONTROL BLOCK
    REINITIATE GET CONTROL BLOCK
    CLOSE THE FILL-IN DOCUMENT
    CLOSE THE SHELL DOCUMENT
    CLOSE THE OUTPUT DOCUMENT
    COMPLETE PRINTING OF OUTPUT BACKGROUND
    RETURN TO CALLER
END MSBCOMP
```

TABLE 11
RESOLVE INCLUDES

```
BEGIN (MSBRSINC)
  SETUP TO RESOLVE INCLUDED PAGES
  RESOLVE INCLUDES BY FETCHING PAGE
  HANDLE ERRORS
  IF ABORT INDICATED THEN
    INDICATE IT IN RETURN CODE
  ENDIF
  RETURN TO CALLER
END (MSBRSINC)
```

TABLE 12
RESOLVE PAGE

```
BEGIN (MSBRSPG)
  IF NOT END OF MERGE THEN
    IF PRINT OUTPUT THEN
      IF PRINT ONLY THEN
        IF $SYSDOC1 PRINTING AND PROCESSING THEN
          GIVE PAGE TO PRINTER
        ELSE
          IF $SYSDOC2 IS PRINTING AND PROCESSING
            THEN
            GIVE PAGE TO PRINTER
          ELSE
            IF ONE DOCUMENT PRINTING AND THE OTHER
              PROCESSING THEN
            IF END OF A SHELL THEN
              DETERMINE DOCUMENT STATUS
            IF SYSTEM DOCUMENT IN THE QUEUE IS
              NOT PRINTING THEN
            POST MERGE WAITING UNTIL DOCUMENT
              NOW PRINTING IS FINISHED
```



```
UNTIL SYSTEM DOCUMENT FINISHED
  PRINTING OR END PRESSED DO
    POLL FOR REQUEST KEY
    POLL FOR END KEY
  ENDDO
  TAKE MESSAGE DOWN
ENDIF
ENDIF
DETERMINE DOCUMENT STATUS
IF DOCUMENT THRU PRINTING THEN
IF NOT AN ABORT THEN
ENDIF
  GIVE NEW DOCUMENT TO PRINTER
  INDICATE DOCUMENT IS PRINTING
ENDIF
ELSE
  IF $SYSDOC1 PROCESSING AND $SYSDOC2
    NONEXISTENT THEN
    GIVE NEW DOCUMENT TO PRINTER
    IF DOCUMENT SUBMITTED TO PRINT THEN
    INDICATE DOCUMENT IS PRINTING
    ENDIF
  ENDIF
ENDIF
ENDIF
ENDIF
ENDIF
ELSE
  GIVE PAGE TO TRAIL PRINT
  INDICATE DOCUMENT IS PRINTING
ENDIF
  SAVE CURRENT PAGE NAME OF OUTPUT DOCUMENT
ENDIF
ELSE
  POLL FOR REQUEST KEY
  POLL FOR END KEY
ENDIF
RETURN TO THE CALLER
```

END MSBRSPG

\$SYSDOC1 AND \$SYSDOC2 ARE TEMPORARY SYSTEM DOCUMENTS

TABLE 13
GET NEXT REPLACEMENT LIST

BEGIN (MSBBUMPV)

IF NOT SWITCH CODE MERGE THEN

UNTIL NEXT LIST FOUND OR NO MORE LISTS DO

IF ALL REPLACEMENT LISTS ARE TO BE USED AND

IF FIRST TIME THEN

GET FIRST PAGE

ELSE

IF ALL REPLACEMENT LISTS ARE TO BE USED
THEN

SAVE NEXT PAGE NAME OF REPL. LIST

ELSE

IF FIRST TIME THRU THEN

INDICATE DONE ONCE

ENDIF

SAVE NEXT PAGE NAME OF REPL. LIST

ENDIF

IF NOT ON LAST PAGE OF DOCUMENT OR NOT ON

LAST PAGE OF PAGE LIST THEN

GET THE NEXT PAGE

ENDIF

ENDIF

ENDDO

ELSE

IF FIRST TIME THRU THEN

GET THE FIRST PAGE

ELSE

IF END OF DOCUMENT THEN

INDICATE MERGE COMPLETE

ELSE

```
        IF NEXT CHARACTER IS A LINE END THEN
            MAKE SURE ANOTHER VARIABLE EXISTS
        ENDIF
    ENDIF
ENDIF
ENDIF
IF NOT FINISHED MERGING THEN
    INDICATE PAGE FOUND
    UPDATE THE PAGE NAME
ENDIF
ERROR HANDLING
RETURN TO CALLER
END MSBBUMPV
```

TABLE 14
GET INTERMEDIATE SHELL

```
BEGIN (MSBGISHL)
    IF PRINT ONLY OUTPUT THEN
        IF FIRST TIME THRU THEN
            OPEN (CREATE) $$SYSDOC1
            SET $$SYSDOC1 STATUS TO PROCESSING
        ENDIF
        IF $$SYSDOC1 STATUS IS PRINTING THEN
            RESET $$SYSDOC1 PROCESSING
            DELETE $$SYSDOC2
            OPEN (CREATE) $$SYSDOC2
            SET $$SYSDOC2 STATUS TO PROCESSING
        ELSE
            IF $$SYSDOC2 STATUS IS PRINTING THEN
                RESET $$SYSDOC2 PROCESSING
                DELETE $$SYSDOC1
                SET $$SYSDOC1 STATUS TO PROCESSING
            ENDIF
        ENDIF
    ENDIF
```

```
ESTABLISH TSB SESSION WITH ACTIVE DOCUMENT
COPY DOCUMENT FORMAT FROM BUFFER TO ACTIVE
DOCUMENT
ENDIF
IF PRINT ONLY OR IF FIRST TIME THRU AND MEDIA
OUTPUT THEN
FETCH AND STORE DOCUMENT FORMAT
SETUP TO READ AND STORE DOCUMENT FORMAT
READ DOCUMENT FORMAT
STORE DOCUMENT FORMAT
ENDIF
STORE STARTING PAGE NAME
MOVE OPERATOR SPECIFIED SHELL INTO APPROPRIATE
OUTPUT DOCUMENT
RETURN TO THE CALLER
END MSBGISHL
```

DESCRIPTIVE-NAME = MERGE ERRORS

FUNCTION = The Merge Errors component (MER-----) deals with the insertion of the output shell error messages and the quantitative error message at the end of the shell in which the error(s) occurred.

TABLE 15

MERGE EXECUTION ERROR HANDLER

```
BEGIN (MERHNDLR)
GET ADDRESS OF MERGE ERROR CONTROL BLOCK
GET TSB CONTROL BLOCK ADDRESS
GET THE ERROR NUMBER
INDICATE AN EXECUTION ERROR FOUND DURING MERGE
SAVE CURRENT TSB LOCATION
BUMP THE SEQUENTIAL ERROR NUMBER
```

DETERMINE WHICH MESSAGE TO USE FROM ERROR MESSAGE

TABLE

GET START OF TABLE

SUBTRACT ONE FROM ERROR CODE TO GET CORRECT

DISPLACEMENT INTO TABLE

FIND OFFSET OF MESSAGE DISPLACEMENT

SAVE THE MESSAGE NUMBER

GENERATE POINTER TO WORK AREA FOR BUILDING THE

ERROR MESSAGE

ESTABLISH TSB ADDRESSABILITY

SAVE THE POINTER

BUILD MESSAGE

MOVE MESSAGE INTO TSB

ESTABLISH TSB ADDRESSABILITY

CALCULATE HOW MANY CHARACTERS TO MOVE

MOVE MESSAGE INTO TSB

IF CANCEL ON ERROR IS ACTIVE THEN

INDICATE ABORT

ENDIF

RETURN TO THE CALLER

END MERHNDLR

TABLE 16

MERGE ERROR MESSAGE NUMBER TABLE

BEGIN (MERTBL)

END MERHNDLR

THIS TABLE CONTAINS A LIST OF ALL THE MERGE EXECUTION ERRORS

While the invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to a preferred embodiment it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various other changes by equivalent means may be made such as utilizing other types of input/output devices, other types of displays other memory organizations without departing from the scope of the invention as defined by the claims.

CLAIMS

1. Interactive text processing system in which a document input by way of a keyboard is stored, displayed to an operator, and merged with other keyed data in accordance with directions supplied to said system by an operator interacting with the keyboard and the display unit, characterized in that it comprises:

means for signalling the location in a document at which an insert of pre-stored text data is to be added to the document;

means for displaying a first menu of predetermined task selections selectable by an operator through said keyboard for selecting a merge operation operable in response to either a first or a second control code;

means for displaying, when said merge operation operable in response to said first control code is selected, a second menu of predetermined task selections for specifying the identification of said insert of pre-stored text data;

means for displaying, when said merge operation operable in response to said second control code is selected, a third menu of predetermined task selections for specifying the identification of said insert of pre-stored text data; and

means for fetching in response to the specified identification the insert of pre-stored text data and merging said data into said document at the signalled location to produce a revised document.
2. Interactive text processing system according to claim 1 characterized in that said first control code comprises Switch Codes.

3. Interactive text processing system according to claim 1 characterized in that said first control code comprises Named Variables.
4. In an interactive text processing system in which a document input by way of a keyboard is stored, displayed to an operator, and merged with other keyed data in accordance with directions supplied to said system by an operator interacting with the keyboard and the display unit, Method which characterized in that it comprises the steps of:

signalling the location in a document at which an insert of pre-stored text data is to be added to the document;

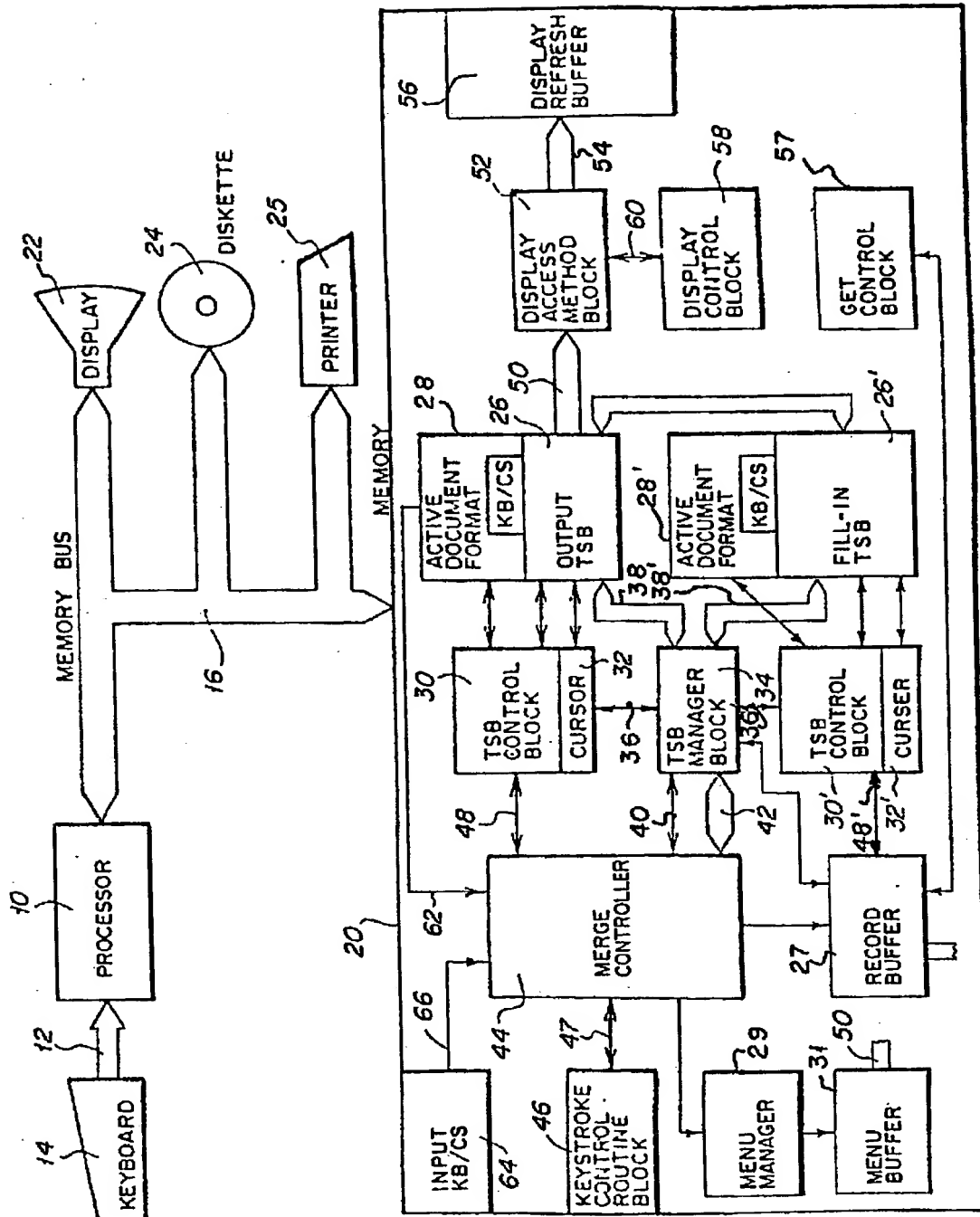
displaying to the operator a first menu of predetermined task selections selectable by the operator through said keyboard for selecting a merge operation operable in response to either a first or a second control code;

displaying, to the operator when said merge operation operable in response to said first control code is selected, a second menu of predetermined task selections for specifying the identification of said insert of pre-stored text data;

displaying, to the operator when said merge operation operable in response to said second control code is selected, a third menu of predetermined task selections for specifying the identification of said insert of pre-stored text data; and

fetching in response to the specified identification the insert of pre-stored text data and merging said data into said document at the signalled location to produce a revised document.

5. Method according to claim 4 characterized in that said first control code comprises Switch Codes.
6. Method according to claim 4 characterized in that said second control code comprises Named Variables.



१७५

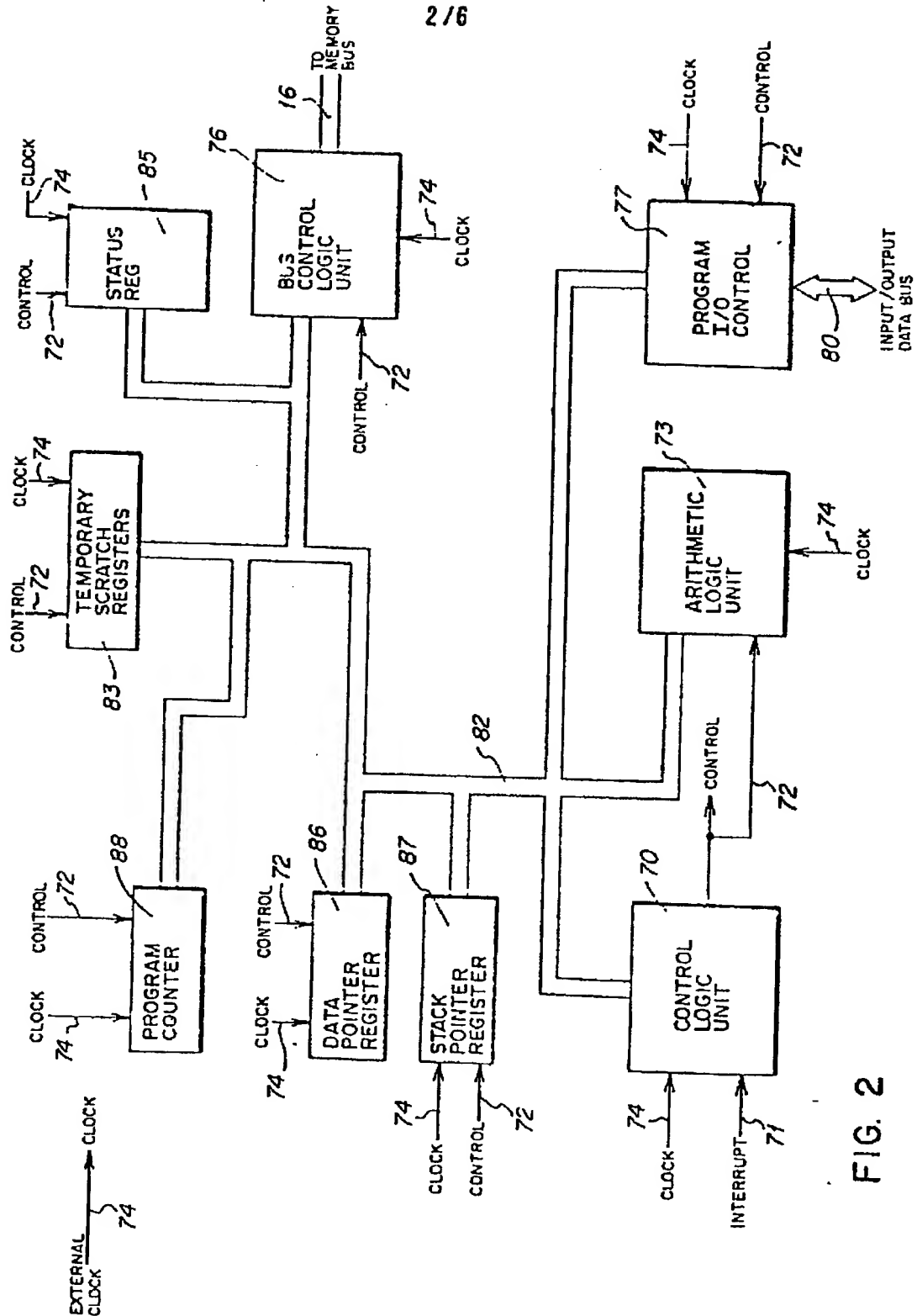


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

Merging Variables		Kyb	
ID	ITEM	YOUR CHOICE	POSSIBLE CHOICES
MERGE WITH NAMED VARIABLES SETUP			
a	Shell Document Name		
b	Diskette Name		
c	Fill-In Document Name		
d	Diskette Name		
e	System Page Number (s)		
f	Merged Document Name		
g	Diskette Name		
h	Print Merged Document	1	1 = Yes 2 = No
i	Cancel On Error	1	1 = Yes 2 = No
j	Paper Handling	2	1 = Cut Paper, Manual Feed 2 = Cut Paper, Automatic Feed 3 = Continuous Paper

When finished with this menu, press ENTER.
Type ID letter to choose ITEM; press ENTER:

FIG. 4

Merging Variables		MERGE WITH SWITCH CODES SETUP		Kyb	
ID	ITEM	YOUR CHOICE	POSSIBLE CHOICES		
a	Shell Document Name				
b	Diskette Name				
c	Fill-In Document Name				
d	Diskette Name				
e	Merged Document Name				
f	Diskette Name				
g	Print Merged Document	1	1 = Yes	2 = No	
h	Cancel On Error	1	1 = Yes	2 = No	
i	Paper Handling	2	1 = Cut Paper, Manual Feed	2 = Cut Paper, Automatic Feed	
			3 = Continuous Paper		

When finished with this menu, press ENTER.

Type ID letter to choose ITEM; press ENTER:

FIG. 5

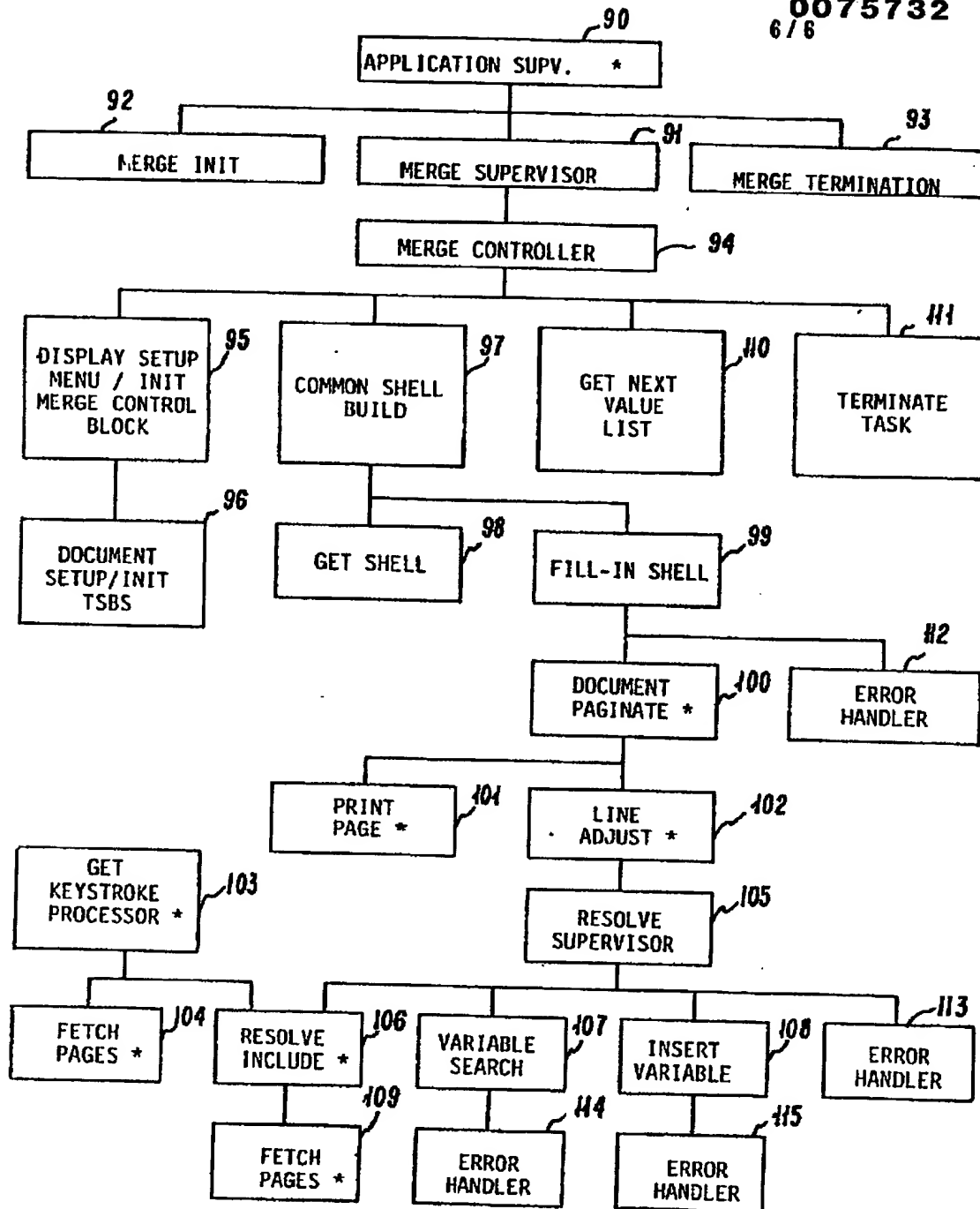


FIG. 6

NOTE: SECTIONS MARKED
WITH '' ARE NOT IN*
THE MERGE SUBSYSTEM

17

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

21 Application number: 82107799.7

61 Int. Cl.³: G 06 F 15/20

22 Date of filing: 25.08.82

30 Priority: 24.09.81 US 305252

43 Date of publication of application:
06.04.83 Bulletin 83/14

68 Date of deferred publication of search report: 18.05.83

84 Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB IT

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64 Method and apparatus for merge processing in a text processing system.

67 An improved method and apparatus in an interactive text processing system for creating documents by selectively merging text data from two or more text records by signalling the location in a document at which the insert of text data is to be added, displaying a Merge Tasks Menu which provides an option for executing a merge operation in response to either Switch Code or Named Variable control codes, specifying the Identification and location of the text data comprising the Shell Document and the Fill-In Document, and executing the Merge operation based on the specified data and Merge control mode.

EP 0 075 732 A3

MERGE TASKS	
ID	ITEM
a	Merge with Named Variables
b	Merge with Switch Codes
c	Go to Task Selection

When finished with this menu, press ENTER.
Type ID letter to choose ITEM; press ENTER:

FIG. 3



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

0075732

Application number

EP 82 10 7799

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 3)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	--- IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, vol. 21, no. 11, April 1979, pages 4323-29, New York (USA); R.J.GERLACH et al.: "System for simplified form fill-in using CRT display". *The whole document*	1,4	G 06 F 15/20
A	--- GB-A-1 363 910 (IBM) *Page 1, lines 12-41; claims 1,2,3*	1,4	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 3)
			G 06 F 15/20
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 21-01-1983	Examiner BARRACO G.S.
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